



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
September 5, 2018**

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cottam welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting of the R.I. Board of Education and called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Present: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, *Christopher Bove, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Mike Grey, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

*Ex-officio, non-voting member

Absent:

Heather Crosby
Karen Davis
Joseph MarcAurele
Marta Martinez
Stephan Pryor
Jeffery Williams

After calling the meeting to order, Chair Cottam called for a moment of silence for a student who was a victim of a deadly shooting that occurred outside of the Providence Career and Technical Academy in Providence.

Next, Chair Cottam congratulated Timothy DelGiudice as the newly appointed Chair of the Council; welcomed Marianne Monte and Joseph MarcAurele, the newly appointment members to the Council on Postsecondary Education; and introduced Christopher Bove, the new Chair of the Student Advisory Council and the PK-12 Student Representative on the Board of Education.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Thomas Izzo and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of February 15, 2018

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the May 30, 2018, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Daniel McConaghy and seconded by Dennis Duffy, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the May 30, 2018, meeting

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Members Gaines and Monti had to recuse themselves from the vote as they did not attend the May 30, 2018, meeting of the Board of Education]

3. OPEN FORUM

Vincent Marzullo of West Warwick, addressed the Board on the topic of sexual assault within the institutions of postsecondary education. After sharing his perspective on a recent sexual assault case that occurred at the University of Rhode Island, he requested that current policy

and practices be reviewed to ensure both the safety of students at Rhode Island's public institutions and the full compliance of Title 9, as well as the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Karen Lowe, Senior Policy Analyst for the Rhode Island Senate, on behalf of Senator Gallo, invited the members of the Board to attend the 7th annual RI Senate Education Summit on Monday, September 17, 2018.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRS

Chair of the Board of Education

Chair Cottam led her report by highlighting the collective work occurring between RIDE and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) that has been acknowledged in recent editorials recognizing the great work happening in education, in particular, Rhode Island's Career Education work. Chair Cottam, after thanking the companies who participated, encouraged everyone to read the articles, as they are a tribute to the commitment to collaborate with companies, emphasizing most recently the PrepareRI initiative.

Chair Cottam noted the third annual PrepareRI Summit being held on Saturday, October 13, 2018, at Rhode Island College (RIC), and thanked Commissioner Dann-Messier and her staff, for taking the lead this year.

Chair Cottam then shared she and Council Chair DelGiudice recently attended the RIC and the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) convocation ceremonies and encouraged Board members to listen to a wonderful speech that is posted on the CCRI website, delivered by someone at a Community College in Texas.

Lastly, Chair Cottam called attention to the importance of focusing to understand mental health issues and thanked Council Member Izzo for his dedication to the topic. She announced that the Mental Health Summit will take place on Saturday, November 17, 2018.

Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

Chair McConaghy began by encouraging Board Members to attend RIDE's annual WaterFire – A Salute to Rhode Island Educators - in Providence on Saturday, September 22, 2018.

Next, Chair McConaghy noted an opportunity for student and teacher engagement. RIDE is seeking student candidates to participate in the Commissioner's Student Action group as well as educator candidates to join the Educators in Action quarterly meetings with Commissioner Wagner, to engage in informal discussion surrounding education topics.

Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Chair DelGiudice thanked everyone for their patience, as he gets up to speed in his position as Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education. He is excited and invigorated about the work that is happening and vows that everything will be done in a transparent and collaborative way.

Chair DelGiudice then offered his regrets for Council Member Williams who will not be attending meetings for a while as he is dealing with some family issues.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Wagner began his report by echoing Chair Cottam's remarks on the firearm scenario that occurred outside of the Providence Career and Technical Academy. He emphasized the importance of coming together as a community on behalf of children and families and noted his appreciation for the moment of silence that took place at the beginning of the meeting.

Next, Commissioner Wagner directed attention to current school-year updates. First, an opinion editorial was published that talked about positioning the work of the Department of Education embracing student pathways but lacking the embrace of adult-teacher-educator pathways.

Commissioner Wagner noted there are proposed regulations that the Council approved in August and that are currently out for public review and comment, entailing three key areas:

- Looking at Rhode Island's teacher preparation programs in which RIDE is proposing to double the amount of hands-on experience that Rhode Island's "teachers-to-be" are required to have;
- Expanding pathways for people to become educators and focus on making these pathways accessible to those who represent underserved communities. This would increase diverse representation in the workforce, which would then more adequately reflect the diversity of the children and families whom RIDE serves and help to quantify cultural competence in our educators as a shortage area; and
- Proposing investments in ongoing professional development to be improved upon through aligning teacher pathways with student pathways.

Lastly, Commissioner Wagner spoke about the idea of a declaratory order as it relates to conceal and carry permits in Rhode Island schools, which has been found to be in conflict with underlying statutes for safe and secure learning environments. Commissioner Wagner

encouraged that the underlying statutes be reconciled by the legislature. Until then there is a binding directive to all LEAs, schools and school districts, that prohibits concealed carry-on weapons on school grounds except by properly, visibly identified school officers.

Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Commissioner Dann-Messier led her remarks by introducing the evening's agenda items as they highlight three specific initiatives that RIDE and OPC have worked collaboratively on. She thanked RIDE for their co-leading cooperation on the PrepareRI Summit and encouraged the participation of post-secondary education staff at the Summit because of its emphasis on post-secondary, work-based learning opportunities.

Next, Commissioner Dann-Messier spoke to the success of dual enrollment in Rhode Island and briefly talked about the Rhode Island SAILS initiative.

Lastly, Commissioner Dann-Messier thanked Council Members Callahan, Izzo, and DelGiudice, for actively participating in discussions surrounding the evening's agenda items.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. PrepareRI – Update

Steve Osborn, Chief of Innovation at RIDE, provided background on the PrepareRI initiative and acknowledged that this was the first update in about one year.

PrepareRI is a statewide strategy that aims to align all work to support the readiness of children in their transition from high school to the workforce. It aims to close the gap between what students learn in school and what they will need for high-demand jobs and is run by an inter-agency task force including RIDE, OPC, Governor's Workforce Board (GWB), RI Commerce Corporation and the Rhode Island Governor's Office.

Next, Mr. Osborn explained that PrepareRI is working to achieve the goal that by 2020 all children, regardless of their background, will graduate with a post-secondary credential of value.

He then shared the K-12 progress that PrepareRI has made in areas such as career and technical education, diploma plus, work-based learning, counseling and career exploration as well as outreach and professional learning.

Mr. Osborn introduced an intern who participated in the PrepareRI internship program named Chris who shared about his internship experience. The intern spoke to the phenomenality of the program in that it helped him not only earn college credits but also achieve his dreams, while gaining a meaningful learning experience.

b. Dual Enrollment – Draft Guidance Document

Steve Osborn led the discussion item by explaining that this is a follow-up to a previous conversation with the purpose of quantifying the different processes currently in place. The Dual Enrollment Draft Guidance Document aims to protect the best interests of students, families, the colleges and university, along with giving a chance for schools to advocate for resources.

Paula Shultz, OPC's Associate Commissioner of Student Success, went over the review process, the proposed changes to the document, and the timeline and key milestones associated with the budget and enrollment processes.

c. Tennessee/Rhode Island SAILS (Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support Program) – Update

Commissioner Dann-Messier briefly introduced the work being done in the committee comprised of Council members, RIDE, the three institutions of postsecondary education, and local school districts, to ensure RI secondary students are prepared to succeed in postsecondary education. Although there are many national models, the most prominent is Tennessee SAILS, and the committee is at the beginning stages of figuring out the most effective design for Rhode Island.

Commissioner Wagner then explained the four components typically involved in the Tennessee SAILS model:

- The standard for student enrollment in credit-bearing course work in college;
- The district's progress to meet that standards;
- Interventions by students who do not meet that standard;
- K-12 teachers talking to higher-education professors about a common set of standards and where gaps are demonstrated.

In closing, Chair Cottam assured everyone that there would be an updated guidance document. She asked that as everyone comes to a resolution, to think about not going back to the days of only affording those who can afford dual and concurrent enrollment and opportunities, the opportunity. As folks put their collective heads together, we should be able to come up with some solution so that we can provide universal access to all of our students to help them move on towards finishing their education as quickly as they can.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Daniel McConaghy and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Daniel McConaghy, Marianne Monte, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.